

W C Holmes

Biology Department, Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, LA 71497 USA

A study of the Mikania of Mexico has resulted in the discovery of the following new species

MIKANIA NEEI W Holmes, sp nov

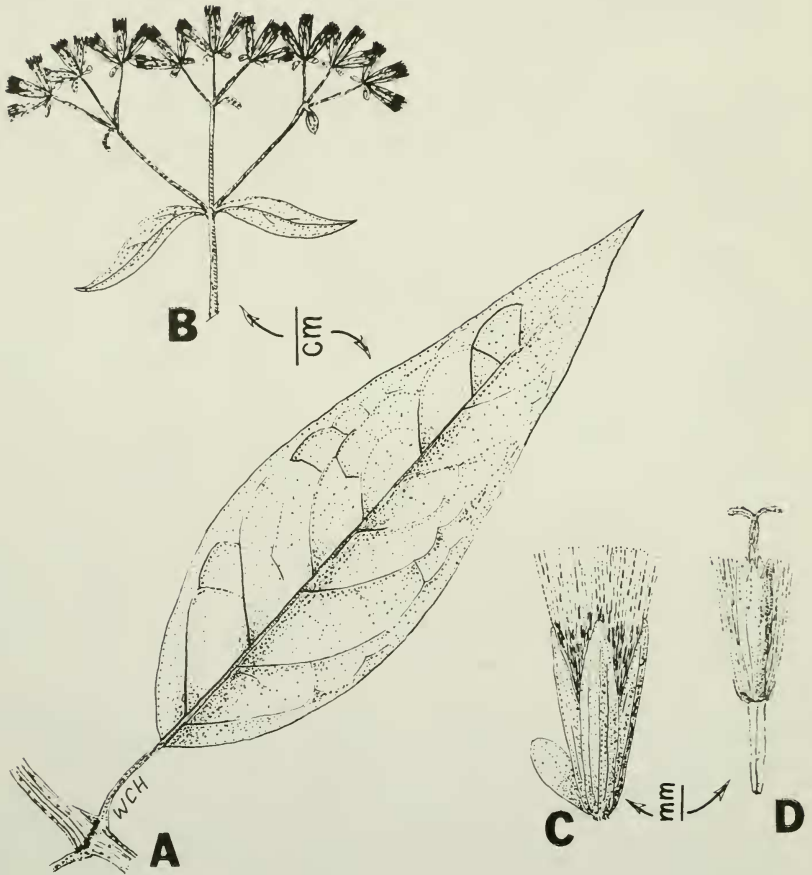
Suffrutex volubilis; foliis lanceolato-ovatis, ad 12 x 4 cm, apice acuminatis, basi obtusis vel rotundatis, marginibus integris; capitulescentiis corymbosis, capitulis ca 8 mm longis, sessilibus, ternatis, corollis ca 4.5 mm longis, dentibus limbi triangularibus, ca 1 mm longis, achaeniis ca 2 mm longis; pappi setis 40-45, ca 4.5 mm longis, scabridis

Semiwoody vine. Stems terete, striate, glabrous; internodes 8 cm or more long. Leaf blades lance-ovate, 12 x 4 cm, pinnately nerved with ca 7 pairs of secondary nerves, these exerted from the surface, of ca equal prominence and uniformly distributed along the midvein for nearly the entire length of the blade, upper surfaces glabrous, lower surfaces puberulent, apices acuminate, margins entire, bases obtuse to rounded; petioles ca 1.8 cm long, puberulent. Capitulescence an open corymb, 4-4.5 x 8-9 cm; branchlets puberulent; bracteal leaves similar to cauline leaves but reduced in size. Heads ca. 8 mm long, sessile, ternately disposed. Subinvolucral bracts oblanceolate to obovate, 3-4.5 mm long, puberulent, apices rounded to acute. Phyllaries elliptic-oblong, 3, or 5 (or 7) nerved, apices acute to subacuminate to a rounded and puberulent point, the outer pair puberulent, the inner pair glabrate. Corollas ca 4.5 mm long, tube ca 1.4 mm long, throat subcylindric, ca. 2 mm long, teeth triangular, ca. 1 x 0.5 mm wide; style appendages hirsute. Achenes (immature) ca. 2 mm long. Pappus bristles 40-45, ca. 4.5 mm long, the margins scabrid.

Holotype: Mexico. Veracruz, E side of entrance of Laguna de Sontecomapan into the Gulf of Mexico, 7 km NE of Sontecomapan, Municipio de Catemaco, 0-50 m, 1 Nov 1981, M. Nee 22565 (TEX).

The open corymbose capitulescence with ternately disposed sessile heads and flowers with hirsute style appendages are the most distinctive features of the new species. These suggest relationship with Mikania guaco H. & B., a plant distributed from northern South America throughout Central America to southern Mexico. That species is distinguished by its usually scabrid, widely ovate to oval leaves with the bases being cuneately decurrent on the petiole. The venation pattern also differs in that two to three pairs of conspicuously prominent secondary nerves originate within the basal one-fourth of the blade. The capitulescence is denser, the heads being disposed in congested corymbs. Subinvolucral bracts differ in

being subulate to linear-lanceolate and 0.5 to 2 mm long, while the phyllaries have rounded apices.



Mikania neei W. Holmes. A. Leaf, B. Capitulescence, C. Head, and D. flower and achene.